



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Mario Antonio Mendez

CANADIAN CITIZEN SENTENCED ON ECSTASY CHARGES

A Canadian citizen was sentenced today in federal court in Detroit for possessing nearly 79,000 ecstasy pills, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Brian Moskowitz, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Receiving the sentence was Mario Antonio Mendez, 39, of Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

United States District Judge Gerald E. Rosen sentenced Mendez to 87 months in custody, followed by two years of supervised release.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "The harmful effects of Ecstasy are particularly profound, so today's sentence for bringing almost 80,000 pills into the US should be a strong deterrent to such dangerous drug trafficking."

Mendez pleaded guilty to the offense in February of this year. The information presented to the court at the time of the plea established that on March 22, 2006, while

attempting to enter the United States from Canada through the Detroit/Windsor tunnel, Mendez had roughly 78,971 pills of ecstasy concealed in the rear door panels of his vehicle. The pills were destined for delivery and further distribution within the Detroit metropolitan area and had an estimated street value in excess of \$1 million.

The case was investigated by special agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Carl Gilmer-Hill.